

Dragon Lands in Duxbury

Firefighter welds metal into mascot

By KEITH L. MARTIN

With spring upon us, it's not uncommon to spy motorists slowing down on town streets to catch a glimpse of the latest winged visitors to Duxbury, no matter the species.

The same can be said regarding dragons. Yes, dragons.

"Draco" the dragon, with his flapping green wings and bright orange eyes, was the spectacle causing double-takes and gaping mouths as cars passed the Tremont Street home of the Nudd family on Sunday, with the metallic monster making his arrival in Duxbury known.

The creation of resident and firefighter Loring "Chuck" Nudd, Draco stands over eight-feet tall, weighs almost 1,000 pounds and brought an instant smile to friends and families on hand for his grand unveiling.

"I've wanted to bring him out for a while and the end of the winter seems to finally be here so today was the day," said Nudd. "We called up our friends and family and said 'he's out.'"

"He" was put together in about five weeks, with a body comprised of old bulldozer treads, an old air compressor for a head, a windshield motor to move his wings and various other pieces of metal welded together by Nudd who turned a self-described pile of "junk" and made it into a giant.

"I got the idea because Duxbury sports were doing so well and I wanted to bring him to some sporting events and promote the town," he said. "My father, Loring, Sr., taught me to weld and we both like being creative."

Nudd said that he's made little metal birds and other creations for the family garden, but nothing like Draco,

who gets his name from a similar creature in the movie *Dragonheart*.

Even Nudd's wife, Robin, sees her husband's creation as not just a piece of art and lots of fun, but a goodwill ambassador for the whole town.

"We told people that it has been such a horrible winter and with their 'spirit dragon,' that this was a way to celebrate and we're thinking about bringing him to different events around town," she said.

Draco's creator said that while the family lawn on Tremont Street will be the dragon's home for now, those wings will definitely get a workout in the near future.

"Maybe I'll submit him at an art show, maybe I'll bring him to a parade or two, or maybe like the wooden cows for the O'Neil farm, we'll move him from home to home," said Nudd. "I have a feeling we'll be seeing him a lot."



Samuel Dunn, 3 1/2, gets a close-up look at Draco thanks to dad Brian.